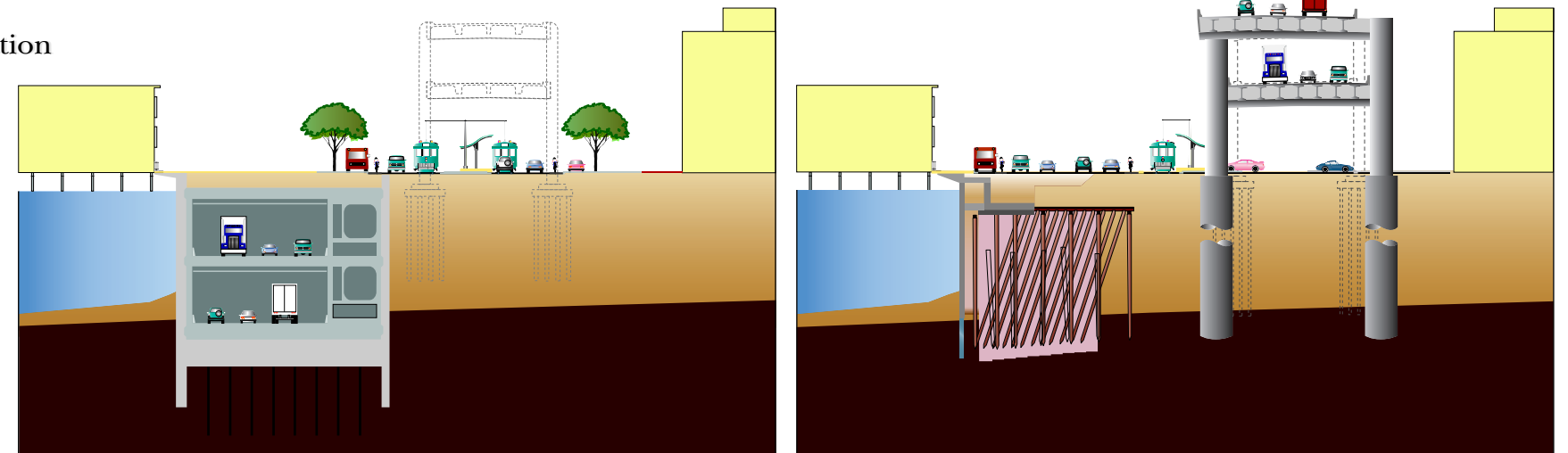


# *SR 99: ALASKAN WAY VIADUCT & SEAWALL REPLACEMENT PROJECT*

Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Section 4(f) Evaluation



FHWA-WA-EIS-04-01-DS

SR 99: ALASKAN WAY VIADUCT & SEAWALL REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Section 4(f) Evaluation

Submitted pursuant to:

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)(42 U.S.C. 4322(2)(c)) and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)(Ch. 43.21 C RCW) and Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act, (49 U.S.C. 303(c))

by the  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

and  
WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

and  
CITY OF SEATTLE

Abstract

The existing Alaskan Way Viaduct (State Route [SR] 99) and Alaskan Way Seawall were damaged in the 2001 Nisqually earthquake, are at the end of their useful life, and must be replaced. The Federal Highway Administration, Washington State Department of Transportation, and City of Seattle (in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [Seattle District], King County, and Port of Seattle) plan to replace the existing facilities to provide structures capable of withstanding earthquakes and to ensure that people and goods can safely and efficiently travel within and through the project corridor. The SR 99 Corridor provides vital transportation connections in, to, and through downtown Seattle, as well as between various other regional destinations. The seawall supports Seattle’s central waterfront, the Alaskan Way surface street, and numerous utilities serving downtown Seattle. The seawall also retains the land beneath the foundations of the via-

duct. Failure of either structure would create severe hardships for the city and region and could possibly cause injury or death.

The March 2004 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzed five Build Alternatives for their potential effects on the human and natural environment. The five alternatives evaluated were called the Rebuild, Aerial, Tunnel, Bypass Tunnel, and Surface Alternatives. A preferred alternative was not identified.

In late 2004 the project partners reduced the number of alternatives from five to two based on information presented in the Draft EIS, public comments, and further study and design. The two remaining alternatives evaluated in this document are the Tunnel and Elevated Structure Alternatives. The Elevated Structure Alternative incorporates elements of the Rebuild and Aerial Alternatives evaluated

in the Draft EIS. In December 2004, the project partners identified the Tunnel Alternative as the Preferred Alternative.

This Supplemental Draft EIS provides additional information available since the Draft EIS was published in March 2004. This document also evaluates construction plans that would close SR 99 for 0 to 42 months and changes made to the alternatives.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information

Materials can be provided in alternative formats: large print, Braille, cassette tape, or on computer disk for people with disabilities by contacting Molly Edmonds at 206-267-3841 / EdmondM@wsdot.wa.gov. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may make a request for alternative formats through the Washington Relay Service at 7-1-1.

Title VI

WSDOT ensures full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the provision of benefits and services resulting from its federally assisted programs and activities. For questions regarding WSDOT’s Title VI Program, you may contact the Department’s Title VI Coordinator at 360-705-7098.

Stephen P. Boch

Stephen Boch  
Major Project Oversight Manager  
for the Federal Highway Administration

6/23/2006

Date of Approval

Megan White

Megan White  
Director of Environmental Services  
for the Washington State Department of Transportation

6/23/06

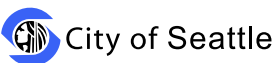
Date of Approval

Grace Crunican

Grace Crunican  
Director of Seattle Department of Transportation  
for the City of Seattle

6.22.06

Date of Approval





# FACT SHEET

## Project Name:

Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Project

## Project Description:

The Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Project (AWV Project) proposes to improve the existing SR 99 Corridor now served by the Alaskan Way Viaduct in Seattle, Washington. The project would provide facilities with improved earthquake resist-ance that maintain or improve mobility for people and goods along the existing SR 99 Corridor. The project will also improve the Alaskan Way Seawall, which supports surface streets and the viaduct’s foundations.

The proposed action is necessary to replace or rebuild the seawall and viaduct structures. Damage sustained by the viaduct during the February 2001 Nisqually earthquake compromised its structural integrity. Adding to these concerns, these structures were originally designed and built to last approximately 50 to 75 years, and they are now nearing the ends of their serviceable life spans. This past damage, along with the age, design, and location of the existing viaduct, makes it vulnerable to future strong earthquakes, and dam-age from these quakes could make the structure unusable.

The seawall structure is not structurally sound and is also vulnera-ble to earthquake damage. The seawall is critically important, as it supports the soils holding up both the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Alaskan Way surface street.

The SR 99 Corridor, along with Interstate 5, are the primary north-south limited access routes through downtown Seattle, making SR 99 and the Alaskan Way Viaduct a vital link in the region’s high-way and freight mobility system, and thus critical to the region’s economy.

This Supplemental Draft EIS analyzes the improvements north of the Battery Street Tunnel, construction approaches that would close SR 99 for an extended period of time, and updates made to the Tunnel and Elevated Structure Alternatives.

## Proponents:

Washington State Department of Transportation  
Alaskan Way Viaduct Project Office (Wells Fargo Building)  
999 Third Avenue, Suite 2424  
Seattle, WA 98104-4019

City of Seattle  
700 5<sup>TH</sup> Avenue, Suite 3900  
PO Box 34996  
Seattle, WA 98124-4996

Federal Highway Administration  
Washington Division  
Evergreen Plaza  
711 S. Capitol Way, Suite 501  
Olympia, WA 98501-1284

## SEPA Lead Agency

The City of Seattle (City) and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) are co-lead agencies for SEPA, and WSDOT is designated as the nominal lead.

## Responsible SEPA Official

Megan White, Director  
Environmental Services Office  
Washington State Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 47331  
Olympia, WA 98504

## NEPA Lead Agency

Federal Highway Administration  
Washington Division  
Evergreen Plaza  
711 S. Capitol Way, Suite 501  
Olympia, WA 98501-1284

## Comment Period

A comment period will begin on the date notice is published in the Federal Register. Notice is anticipated to take place on July 28, 2006, and the comment period is expected to run through September 22, 2006.

## Review Comments and Contact Information

You may submit your comments on the Supplemental Draft EIS by email or in writing.

**E-mail:** awvsdeiscomments@wsdot.wa.gov

### In Writing:

WSDOT  
Attn: Kate Stenberg, AWV Environmental Manager  
AWV Project Office (Wells Fargo Building)  
999 Third Avenue, Suite 2424  
Seattle, WA 98104-4019

## Public Hearings

Public hearings to provide information and accept comments on the Supplemental Draft EIS will be held on:

September 7, 2006: *Downtown Seattle*  
Plymouth Congregational Church  
1217 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101  
4:00-7:00 p.m.

September 12, 2006: *West Seattle*  
Madison Middle School  
3429 45<sup>TH</sup> Avenue SW  
Seattle, WA 98116  
5:00-8:00 p.m.

September 13, 2006: *Ballard*  
Ballard Community Center  
6020 28<sup>TH</sup> Avenue NW  
Seattle, WA 98107  
5:00-8:00 p.m.

September 14, 2006: *Downtown Seattle*  
Plymouth Congregational Church  
1217 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101  
4:00-7:00 p.m.

## Document Availability

The Supplemental Draft EIS is available online at:  
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Viaduct/>.  
It is also available on CD-ROM by contacting the AWV Project Office at:

Margaret Kucharski  
Alaskan Way Viaduct Project Office (Wells Fargo Building)  
999 Third Avenue, Suite 2424  
Seattle, WA 98104-4019  
206-382-6356

Printed copies of the Supplemental Draft EIS and related appen-dices (technical memoranda and discipline reports) are available at City of Seattle public libraries and Neighborhood Service Centers (See the Distribution List on pages 124 and 125). These documents are also available for purchase at the:

**Alaskan Way Viaduct Project Office,  
999 Third Avenue, Suite 2424  
Seattle, WA 98104-4019**

CDs and Executive Summaries are available at no charge. Prices for printed volumes are as follows:

Supplemental Draft EIS copies (17x11 color)	\$25
Technical appendices	\$75
Complete document set	\$100

FACT SHEET

Continued

Permits and Approvals

Federal

- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** – Clean Water Act Section 404/River and Harbors Act, Section 10 Individual Permit
- **National Marine Fisheries Service & U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** – Section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA) Consultation and Marine Mammal Protection Act Consultation
- **National Marine Fisheries Service** – Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Consultation
- **Advisory Council on Historic Preservation** – National Historic Preservation Act Consultation (Section 106)

State

- **Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation** – National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 Historic Preservation Consultation
- **Washington State Department of Ecology** – Model Toxics Control Act, Removal of Underground Storage Tanks
- **Washington State Department of Ecology** – Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification
- **Washington State Department of Ecology** – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Individual Construction Stormwater Permit
- **Washington State Department of Ecology** – NPDES, Individual Wastewater Discharge/State Waste Discharge Permit
- **Washington State Department of Ecology** – Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), Consistency Certification
- **Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife** – Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA)
- **Washington State Department of Natural Resources** – Aquatic Lands Use Authorization or Aquatics Land Lease

Local

- **King County** – Discharge of Construction Dewatering Approval
- **Seattle City Light** – Clearance Permits
- **Seattle City Light** – Utility Relocation Approval
- **Seattle City Light** – Substation Modification Approval
- **Seattle Department of Planning and Development** – Master Use Permit
- **Seattle Department of Planning and Development** – Shoreline Substantial Development Permit/Conditional Use Permit and/or Variance
- **Seattle Department of Planning and Development** – Grading Permit<sup>1</sup>
- **Seattle Department of Planning and Development** – Building Permit
- **Seattle Department of Planning and Development** – Stormwater and Drainage Control Review
- **Seattle Department of Planning and Development** – Demolition Permit
- **Seattle Department of Planning and Development** – Side Sewer Permit
- **Seattle Department of Planning and Development** – Street Improvement Permit
- **Seattle Department of Planning and Development** – Street Use Permit
- **Seattle Department of Neighborhoods and Pioneer Square Preservation Board** – Pioneer Square Historic District Approval

- **Seattle Deartment of Neighborhoods and Pike Place Market Historic District Commission** – Pike Place Market Historic District Approval
- **Seattle Department of Neighborhoods and Landmark Preservation Board** – Landmark Building Approval
- **Seattle Department of Planning and Development and Department of Transportation** – Noise Variamce
- **Seattle Department of Planning and Development and Department of Transportation** – Removal or Abandonment of Underground Storage Tanks

Other Seattle Permits/Approvals

- Mechanical Permit

- Electrical Permit

- Sign Permit

- Elevator Permit

- Fire Alarm Permit

- Detour Routing Approval

- Downtown Traffic Control Zone Approval

- Concrete Truck Approval

Other Permits/Approvals

- **Puget Sound Clean Air Agency** – Clean Air Act, Air Quality Conformity Review

- **Puget Sound Clean Air Agency** – Prevention of Significant Deterioration

- **Puget Sound Energy (Bonneville Power Administration)** – Electrical Transmission Outage Request

- **Burlington Northern Santa Fe** – Right-of-Way Use Approval

Authors and Principal Contributors

Please see the List of Preparers on pages 126.

Date of Issue of Supplemental Draft EIS

July 28, 2006

Subsequent Environmental Review

Following issuance of this Supplemental Draft EIS, there will be a comment period ending September 22, 2006. The lead agencies will respond to comments on the Draft EIS as well as this document in the Final EIS. The issuance of a Final EIS is anticipated in 2007. Following issuance of the Final EIS, a Record of Decision will be issued by the Federal Highway Administration.

<sup>1</sup>The City and WSDOT are exempt from certain permits under some conditions. Even though this grading work would be exempt, the City would still perform a project review to ensure that the project meets City requirements for grading activities.

SR 99: ALASKAN WAY VIADUCT & SEAWALL REPLACEMENT PROJECT

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